

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8158

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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SUBJECT: LEADERSHIP SHUFFLE IN SEDES

SUMMARY. A YOUNG SOCIALIST LAWYER AND A LIBERAL
ECONOMIST HAVE TAKEN OVER TOP LEADERSHIP JOBS IN SEDES,
REFLECTING A DECISION OF THAT ORGANIZATION TO INCREASE
THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF ITS ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. AT RECENT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SEDES,
PORTUGAL'S POLITICALLY- MINDED ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JORGE SA BORGES, YOUNG LAWYER
WHO HAD BEEN SECRETARY- GENERAL OF SEDES DURING PRECEDING
YEAR, WAS NAMED PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST JOAO SALGUEIRO
WAS NAMED SECRETARY- GENERAL. SA BORGES REPLACES
LIBERAL DEPUTY MAGALHAES MOTA.

2. SA BORGES WAS ONE OF THE " GOLDEN GENERATION" STUDENT
LEADERS IN THE EARLY 60 S, AND IS IDENTIFIED AS A
SOCIALIST AND A CATHOLIC ACTIVIST, HAVING BEEN A LEADER
OF THE LEFT- WING CATHOLIC COOPERATIVE " PRAGMA" IN THE
MID 60' S. (PRAGMA WAS CLOSED DOWN BY THE GOP SEVERAL YEARS
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AGO.) SA BORGES WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BEHIND-THE-SCENES ORGANIZERS OF THE RECENT NATIONAL CONGRESS OF LAWYERS. (LISBON 3950 11/27/72)

3. SALGUEIRO, ANOTHER STUDENT LEADER IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS, IS AN ECONOMIST WHOSE SPECIALTY IS PLANNING; HE WAS UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING FROM 1969 TO 1971 AND IS NOW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH. SALGUEIRO IS A LIBERAL PRAGMATIST WITH POLITICAL AMBITIONS AND UNDENIABLE TALENT.

4. BOTH SA BORGES AND SALGUEIRO ARE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF SEDES; SALGUEIRO HAS OFTEN BEEN CREDITED WITH CONCEIVING THE IDEA OF SEDES. SALGUEIRO TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE LEADERSHIP SHUFFLE IS DESIGNED TO STEP UP THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF SEDES AND COMBAT IMAGE WHICH SEDES HAS IN SOME CIRCLES OF "COLLABORATING" WITH REGIME. SALGUEIRO FEELS HE HIMSELF IS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH GOP; AS A BALANCE, SELECTION OF SA BORGES WILL GIVE SEDES MORE INDEPENDENT CAST.

5. SEDES LEADERS ARE CURRENTLY DRAFTING PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES FOR BALANCE OF '73 AND ALL OF '74; SALGUEIRO SAYS SEDES WILL TAKE ON FRANKLY POLITICAL THEMES IN PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER ELECTIONS. NEXT SEDES COLLOQUIUM WILL TAKE ON CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF VOTER REGISTRATION (A-68 4/20/73).

6. FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO, LEADER OF "LIBERAL WING" IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNTIL HE QUIT EARLY THIS YEAR, HAS RESIGNED FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SEDES FOR REASONS OF HEALTH. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT SA CARNEIRO HAS DEVELOPED SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS FOLLOWING SURGERY AFTER A NEAR FATAL CAR ACCIDENT IN MARCH.) SEDES THUS LOSES ONE OF ITS BEST KNOWN AND RESPECTED LEADERS.

7. OPORTO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SEDES HAS RECENTLY PICKED NEW SLATE OF LEADERS INCLUDING LIBERAL DEPUTIES JOSE DA SILVA AND JOAQUIM MACEDO.

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8. COMMENT: FROM ALL INDICATIONS, SEDES IS TAKING ANOTHER SMALL, CALCULATED STEP TOWARD INCREASED POLITICAL ACTIVITY. SEDES LEADERS ARE PROCEEDING CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO PROVOKE GOP CRACKDOWN. WHILE SEDES HAS NO INTENTION OF FORMING "SEDES SLATES" FOR OCTOBER ELECTIONS, IT PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORTHCOMING POLITICAL DEBATE - - IN LARGE PART BECAUSE ITS MEMBER-

SHIP DOES NOT WANT THAT DEBATE TO BE CONFINED TO
EXPOSITIONS OF ALREADY WELL- KNOWN VIEWS OF GOP AND
TRADITIONAL " DEMOCRATIC" OPPOSITION.
POST

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